



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION - SECURITY SPENDING, WEB SITE ON AGENDA - CITY RAMPING UP FOR SEPTEMBER GOP GATHERING

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Here's St. Paul's to-do list for the Republican National Convention for the next few weeks:

-- Launch a Web site.

-- Figure out how to spend \$50 million on security.

The city is planning on a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to pay for security around the convention, which will take place Sept. 1-4 at the Xcel Energy Center.

Over the next few weeks, city officials will be responding to specific questions about how they intend to spend the money. As of now, they've got a pie chart.

At \$27 million, the priciest piece of the pie will be people. With possibly hundreds of thousands of protesters, more than 10,000 members of the media, several thousand delegates and at least one presidential nominee, cops-aplenty -- and corresponding overtime -- will be needed from law enforcement agencies throughout the state. St. Paul will pay for it, and the federal government will reimburse the city.

Before anyone comes to the convention, of course, they'll check out the city.

They've already started, and city marketing director Erin Dady said that if their Internet searches lead them to the city's current Web site, they're probably not that impressed.

"It's bloated," Dady said in a Wednesday presentation to the St. Paul City Council at which she also outlined a new city Web site.

It will be based on services, such as "How do I get that dead tree off the sidewalk?" as opposed to the current model, which is organized only by city departments.

In addition, the new StPaul.gov site will offer information on the city's history, happenings and tourist attractions. The new site will launch in March.

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Caption:

Graphic: Pioneer Press Convention security budget The city of St. Paul is expected to receive a \$50 million grant to provide security for September's Republican National Convention. The city released a rough outline of how it plans to spend that money. [See microfilm.]

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